



# The EU and its member states' trade support programmes for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

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## Question

*What support is currently available for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the EU, and how effective have these support efforts been?*

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## 1. Summary

Trade is prominently mainstreamed into development policies and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of countries opened a new trade and development chapter based on reciprocity. However, during the negotiations many Least Development Countries (LDCs) and some non-LDCs like Nigeria refused to sign an EPA, jeopardising the EU's objective of regional comprehensive trade agreements. At the moment there is only one comprehensive EPA with the Caribbean region (CARIFORUM), while in Africa there are agreements in West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa, however, within each region individual countries that have opted out from signing it.

Most ACP countries fear lifting barriers to European imports as that will place pressure on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, diverting their diversification efforts that could make them economically dependent on a limited amount of export commodities. Hence, development cooperation was always an important part of the negotiations strategy to improve supply-side competitiveness; business enhancing infrastructure; trade data; EPA institutional capacity building; and fiscal adjustment.

The West African region (ECOWAS) is the only region that succeeded to negotiate EUR 6.5 billion from the EU for its EPA Development Programme (EPADP for the first phase of West Africa's EPA implementation till 2020. The South Africa region (SADC-minus) is working on its own EPA development fund, but without the EU putting a number on the EPA support contribution. The strategy of the EU is to reaffirm that EPA related trade and development cooperation will be facilitated by existing aid mechanisms linked to the Cotonou Agreement and the European Development Fund (EDF). The most important channels for support and assistance for EPAs comes through: EU Aid for Trade, EU External Investment Plan, EDF Regional and National Indicative Programmes and its ACP Trade and Private Sector Development (PSD) programmes. There are three institutions within the EU that provide the main support/assistance for EPAs: EC International Cooperation and Development via its European Development Fund; European Investment Bank; and EU member states.

The Commission has pledged to commit approximately half of its annual €2 billion Aid for Trade (AfT) contribution to support ACP countries, largely though not exclusively through EPA implementation projects. AfT commitments in two categories (trade related infrastructure and building productive capacity) represented more than 97% of total EU AfT commitments in 2015. The largest remained "trade related infrastructure", with EUR 6.6 billion of commitments (trade-related physical infrastructures including transport, storage, communication and energy generation and supply), while "building productive capacity" remained the second largest category, with EUR 6.2 billion.

The EU trade and development support evolved from being linked with WTO rules to being linked to bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), like EPAs and regional economic integration processes. Another trend that can be seen in the literature and online resources is that trade and development support is becoming less technical and shifts towards trade facilitation, PSD and Investment. Over the last 8 years the EU includes more ODA loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to their total trade and development support. Although hard infrastructure, like ports and road construction, remain important investments, there is also a new focus on digital connectivity and the importance of investments in online environments.

Looking at the EU member states, France and Germany increasingly focus on the investment side of trade support by providing loans, while the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Sweden, Belgium and Denmark are more focussing on ODA grants. The literature also shows that trade assistance and other trade related support impact positively on improving trade conditions, lowering trade costs and the integration of developing countries in the global trade system. What this means for poverty reduction, gender issues and income inequality is highly debatable in the literature.

This report not only gives an introduction to the state of affairs and channels of which trade related development support is given to ACP countries related to EPAs, it also gives an overview of what kind of support is given per region in Appendix 2. This list does not claim to be extensive, but is an indication for what happened during the last 5 years. What will happen after 2020 is not clear with Brexit negotiations, EU negotiations on the future of the Cotonou agreement (and the future existence of the ACP Group of countries), and the EU negotiations on a new budget for 2020-2027 all happening at the same time.

## 2. The state of affairs of EPAs

The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) dates back to the signing of the Cotonou Agreement in 2000. EPAs are trade, investment and development agreements negotiated between the European Union (EU) and 79 ACP countries divided in 7 regional areas to integrate them better into the world economy, in particular as they face the effects of “preference erosion”.<sup>1</sup>

As trade is prominently mainstreamed into development policies, the EPAs were in particular a turning point in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) engagement with the international trading system (Dicaprio & Trommer, 2010). The scheme covered most of the LDCs and gave them, for the first time, access to international trade talks. However, during the negotiations many LDCs rejected the EPAs as they could continue trade relations with the EU under the “Everything but Arms” (EBA) regulation. Launched in 2001 by the Council of Ministers, this amendment to the European Commission’s Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) has regulated the trade relations between the EU and the LDCs that have chosen to use this facility, granting duty-free access to all products from LDCs without any quantitative restrictions, except to arms and munitions.

EBA prevented LDCs from opening up their markets for EU products within the context of an EPA, hence, conflicting with the key elements of EPAs: reciprocity and regionalism (Bilal et al., 2011). Most regional blocks are a mix of LDCs and other developing countries, resulting in frictions within regional blocks during EPA negotiations, while intervening with regional economic integration processes; in particular around 2007, when preferential trade relation with the EU ended for the non-LDC ACP countries. Without a comprehensive regional EPA reached, some

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<sup>1</sup> Preference erosion is a term that refers to countries that over time benefit less from their trade preference policies, for example the EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) which was granted to ACP countries in the first Lomé Convention in 1975 (Hoekman et al. 2006). It became most notable at the start of the 2000s when multilateral trade talks, first within GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and since 1994 in the WTO (World Trade Organisation), had lowered the overall trade tariffs based on non-discriminatory arrangements. More importantly, from the 2000s there was an influx in bilateral trade agreements between the EU with countries in Latin America and Asia, which resulted that many developing countries outside the ACP group could now also benefit from access to the EU market.

non-LDC ACP countries signed on an individual basis an interim-EPA, to prevent from falling back on WTO rules and new tariffs on export goods to enter the EU market.

The state of affairs now is that (see more details in Appendix 1):<sup>2</sup>

- There is only one full regional EPA that has been signed, ratified and implemented with a whole region. This is the **Caribbean region** (CARIFORUM) that signed the comprehensive EPA in 2008 - only Haiti has not yet ratified the EPA.
- There is also an agreement with **Southern African region**. In 2016 Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland (also called SADC-minus) signed the agreement. Angola opted out, but has an option to join the agreement in the future. The agreement became the first regional EPA in Africa to be fully operational in February 2018.
- There is an agreement with **West Africa** (15 individual countries, ECOWAS and WAEMU)<sup>3</sup>, but not yet ratified and implemented. Until the adoption of the full regional EPA with West Africa, 'stepping stone' EPAs with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana entered into provisional application in 2016. Nigeria remains reluctant to sign the EPA.<sup>4</sup>
- Also there is an agreement with the **East African Community** (EAC), however only Kenya and Rwanda have signed (2016) the agreement and Kenya remains the only country that has ratified it. For the EPA to enter into force, the three remaining EAC members need to sign and ratify the agreement.
- All the other regions could not negotiate a comprehensive regional EPA. In **Central Africa** only Cameroon signed (2009) an EPA, has ratified it and is in the process of implementation. In **Eastern and Southern Africa** only four countries signed the agreement (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe) and it has been provisionally applied since 2012. In the **Pacific region** only Papua New Guinea and Fiji signed an EPA in 2009. Papua New Guinea ratified the agreement in 2011 and Fiji decided to start provisionally applying the agreement.

### 3. The role of trade support and assistance within EPAs

#### An emphasis on trade and development

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have become important drivers of EU relations with developing countries. The idea is that new opportunities arise for development policy to leverage positive impact through a more strategic use of ODA around EU FTAs, and better unlock their developmental potential. The emphasis on trade-related technical assistance is to strengthen the capacity of individual countries to identify and design trade development programmes. Trade issues are increasingly mainstreamed into national development strategies. EPAs secure immediate open access for goods to the EU market for ACP countries, where the reciprocity principle is for the longer term to adapt to the new circumstances (Bilal et al., 2011).

However, although the EU guarantees 100% duty and quota free access for goods and around 90% for services, goods exported from the ACP countries continue to face non-tariff barriers in the EU market, especially technical and sanitary and phyto-sanitary barriers. Furthermore,

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<sup>2</sup> Information derived from the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/economic-partnerships/>

<sup>3</sup> Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

<sup>4</sup> See some recent information on the CNN website (April 2018): <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/04/06/africa/nigeria-free-trade-west-africa-eu/index.html>

service providers confront similar barriers related to mutual recognition standard issues and difficulties in obtaining visas (Greene, 2015). Most ACP countries fear lifting barriers to European imports as that will place pressure on the agricultural and poorly developed manufacturing sectors, diverting their diversification efforts that could make them economically dependent on a limited amount of export commodities. The envisaged transition period of 15 to 20 years is seen as highly inadequate for allowing these sectors to catch up with international production standards due to low competitiveness of most ACP economies (Giesbert et al., 2016).

To support ACP countries in the transition period and beyond, the EU included a development dimension within the trade negotiations, hence, presenting the EPAs as a “trade and development agreement”.<sup>5</sup> ODA is used to improve trade and customs bodies, help countries participate in international trade negotiations, access international markets by improving sanitary, phyto-sanitary and technical norms and standards, and access to funds for important infrastructural projects.

There is evidence that the absence of power-mitigating institutions serves to intensify the development trade-offs during the negotiations (Heron, 2011). Most ACP countries remain small economies with low population rates and high aid-dependency, resulting in asymmetrical negotiations (Langan & Price, 2015). The willingness to sign a comprehensive EPA was key to extracting important concessions from the EU in areas such as delayed liberalisation schedules and product exemptions and most importantly preferential access to development finance. This comes from the immediate concern for the ACP countries (in particular the smallest economies) highlighting fiscal rather than the trade implications of import liberalisation, due to a heavy dependence on tariff revenue to fund government spending. Therefore, demand for a substantial increase in the amount of ODA was always part of the negotiation strategy (Hurt et al. 2013).

African officials in particular demonstrate discursive power in holding European counterparts to account in terms of ‘development’. Heron (2014) explains that the normative dimension of the EPAs has opened up space for critical contestation, and hence delays to conclusion (amidst ACP demands for aid). In case of CARIFORUM, Heron (2011) also states that the “agreement was not simply a product of a unique set of institutional structures or economic interests. It also constituted a political bargain forged in a highly asymmetrical context, wherein the EU’s market and financial power was amplified by the vulnerabilities, competitive dynamics and interregional rivalries inside the ACP”.

## How is support defined in EPAs?

Financial and non-financial cooperation for trade and development is included in all regional and individual EPAs signed to this date. Development cooperation is part of the main objectives and principles of the CARIFORUM agreement by mentioning the importance of supporting “states’ capacity in trade policy and trade related issues”, and “supporting the conditions for increasing investment and private sector initiative and enhancing supply capacity, competitiveness and economic growth” in the region.<sup>6</sup> In relation to SADC EPA the agreement states: “development cooperation is a crucial element of their Partnership and an essential factor for the achievement of the objectives of this Agreement...”<sup>7</sup> The EAC EPA states, in the part on Customs cooperation

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<sup>5</sup> For example on the official European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/economic-partnerships/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/economic-partnerships/index_en.htm) (10/07/2018).

<sup>6</sup> See for the full text of the CARIFORUM EPA agreement: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:289:0003:1955:EN:PDF>

<sup>7</sup> See for the full text of the SADC EPA agreement: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc\\_153915.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153915.pdf)

and mutual administrative assistance, the importance of “capacity building including financial and technical assistance to the EAC Partner States”.<sup>8</sup>

Development cooperation under EPAs include, but is not limited to, the following interventions:

- Cooperation in supply-side competitiveness;
- Cooperation in business enhancing infrastructure;
- Cooperation in trade data;
- Cooperation for EPA institutional capacity building;
- Cooperation on fiscal adjustment.

In the CARIFORUM EPA, development cooperation has been spread over the different chapters and Articles of the agreement, while in the other three regional EPAs there is an explicit separate chapter on development cooperation with its own Articles. In the CARIFORUM, SADC and EAC EPAs there is no guarantee, however, how much aid the EU actually will provide. The SADC EPA recognises that “adequate resources will be required” and it mentions to “facilitate other donors willing to further support the efforts of the SADC EPA States in achieving the objectives of this Agreement”. It further states that a regional development financing mechanism such as an EPA fund would provide a useful instrument for efficiently channelling development financial resources and for implementing EPA accompanying measures. “The EU agrees to support the efforts of the region to set up such a mechanism. The EU will contribute to the fund following a satisfactory audit”.<sup>9</sup>

It is only the West Africa (ECOWAS) EPA<sup>10</sup> that is unique as it links directly to an explicit EU contribution of EUR 6.5 billion to the West Africa’s EPA Development Programme (EPADP or PAPED; as it is called in the region). West African officials have emphasised the EPADP as a means of promoting both offensive and defensive trade interests in their negotiations with the European Commission. The EPADP will (nominally) promote both productive capacity in the region and ensure that negative consequences experienced upon EPA implementation will be compensated (Langan & Price, 2015). EU support focusses on trade, agriculture, infrastructure, energy and capacity building for developing civil society.

The allocated amount corresponds to the demands and needs, as estimated by the West African authorities of up to EUR 9.5 billion (OECD, 2014). ECOWAS officials stated that the EPADP is necessary to realise the ‘development dimension’ of trade. In particular, insisting that the European Commission delivers on its promises (Langan & Price, 2015). The EU promised to contribute EUR 6.5 million, leaving EPADP to find other donors to invest in the fund. The EU commitment can be split between EU institutions for over €3 billion, EU Member States for €2 billion; and European Investment Bank (EIB) for €1.5 billion. The funds are drawn from the existing EU financial instruments: 11th European Development Fund National Indicative Programmes (NIP) for West Africa, Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) for West Africa, intra-ACP programme, and relevant EU thematic budget lines.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, it remains the question how much extra (new) EU funding has been committed to the ECOWAS countries through EPADP by signing a comprehensive EPA.

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<sup>8</sup> See for the full text of the EAC EPA agreement:

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc\\_153845.compressed.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153845.compressed.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> See for the full text of the SADC EPA agreement: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc\\_153915.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153915.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> See for the full text of the ECOWAS EPA agreement: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc\\_153867.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153867.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Information retrieved from the EPA ECOWAS brochure on the website of the European Commission:

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/epa-brochure\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/epa-brochure_en.pdf) (10/07/2018).



## 4. EPA support programmes

### EU channels for EPA support

EPAs do not contain a centralised funding facility, but the EU reaffirms that development cooperation is facilitated by existing aid mechanisms linked to the Cotonou Agreement and the European Development Fund (EDF). The most important channels for support and assistance for EPAs comes through: EU Aid for Trade, EU External Investment Plan, EDF Regional and National Indicative Programmes, and EU ACP Private Sector Development (PSD). There are three institutions within the EU that provide the main support/assistance for EPAs:

- EC International Cooperation and Development via its European Development Fund;
- European Investment Bank;
- EU member states.

#### Aid for Trade:

One of the most important channels for EPA support is Aid for Trade (AfT).<sup>12</sup> The WTO-led Aid for Trade initiative seeks to mobilise resources to address the trade-related constraints identified by developing and least-developed countries. AfT on the EU level is paid via the European Development Fund (EDF) and European Investment Bank (EIB). On top of that many EU member states support AfT initiatives in their partner countries.

The 'Aid for Trade' agenda derives from the WTO Hong Kong summit of 2005. The emergent AfT framework widened donor support beyond strict Private Sector Development (PSD) remits to other trade-enhancing avenues - such as assistance to enabling infrastructure, and trade governance capacity (for instance, through direct aid to developing countries' trade ministries) (OECD/WTO, 2017). Notably, the European Commission's (2007) 'Towards an EU Aid for Trade Strategy' pledged to meet AfT objectives, and highlighted the centrality of existing PSD components. The Commission has also pledged to commit approximately half of its annual €2 billion Aid for Trade contribution to support ACP countries, largely though not exclusively through EPA implementation projects.

EU AfT comprises the following categories:

- Category 1 – Trade policy and regulation: training, explaining rules and regulations.
- Category 2 – Trade development: investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade, market analysis and development.
- Category 3 – Trade related infrastructure: physical infrastructure including transport and storage, communications and energy generation and supply.
- Category 4 – Building productive capacity: including trade development and productive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, industry, mineral resources and mining.
- Category 5 – Trade related adjustment: contributions to government budget for implementation of recipients own trade reforms and adjustments to trade policy measures by other countries.
- Category 6 – Other trade related needs: other trade related support identified as such by beneficiaries and not captured under the categories above.

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<sup>12</sup> See for more information on the European Commission website on Trade for Aid: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/economic-growth/trade\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/economic-growth/trade_en)

The EU and EU member states are the leading global AfT provider with 29% of the world total. In 2015, the EU and member states committed EUR 13.2bn of total AfT and 75% of EU AfT collective commitments were provided by three donors (the EU, Germany, and France). AfT commitments in two categories (trade related infrastructure and building productive capacity) represented more than 97% of total EU AfT commitments in 2015 (see figure 3). The largest remained “trade related infrastructure”, with EUR 6.6 billion of commitments (trade-related physical infrastructures including transport, storage, communication and energy generation and supply), while “building productive capacity” remained the second largest category, with EUR 6.2 billion (productive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, industry, mineral resources and mining and business environment in general) (European Commission, 2017).

Africa continued to receive the largest share of EU AfT in 2015 (36% of total AfT), followed by Asia (26%), Europe (15%) and America (10%). Africa is also the first recipient of grants, while the type of flows is more diverse in other regions (grants, loans, equity). EU and member states AfT commitments to ACP countries reached an all-time high in 2015 with EUR 4.5bn – 34% of total EU AfT (European Commission, 2017) (see figure 1).

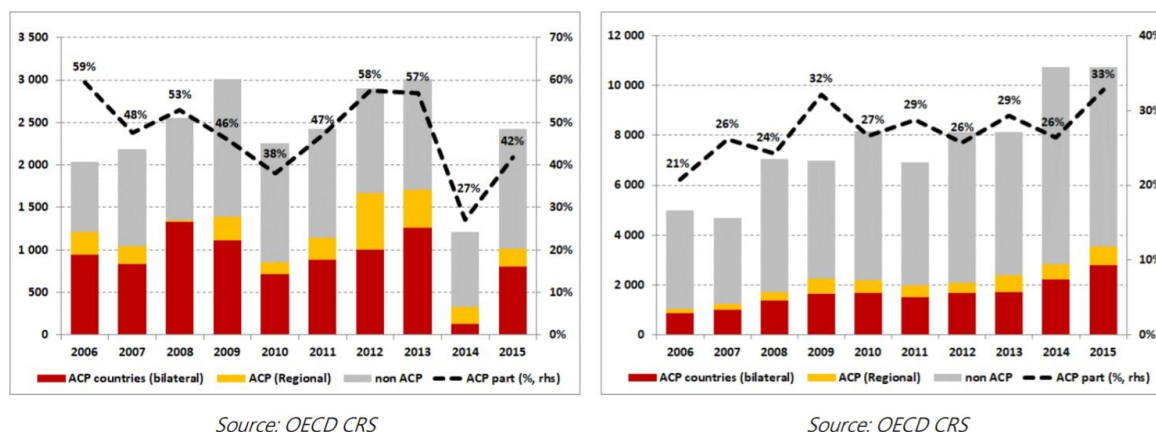
Figure 1. AfT to ACP and LDCs (total of EU and EU member states)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average
ACP							
- Amount in EUR million	3 029	3 123	3 760	4 090	3 153	4 536	3 615
- Share of total AfT (%)	16%	33%	34%	37%	26%	34%	32%
- Growth Rate (%)	-17%	+3%	+20%	+9%	-23%	+44%	+6%
LDC							
- Amount in EUR million	1 660	1 686	1 823	2 640	1 795	2 367	1 995
- Share of total AfT (%)	16%	18%	17%	24%	15%	18%	18%
- Growth Rate (%)	-25%	+2%	+8%	+45%	-32%	+32%	+5%

Source: OECD CRS



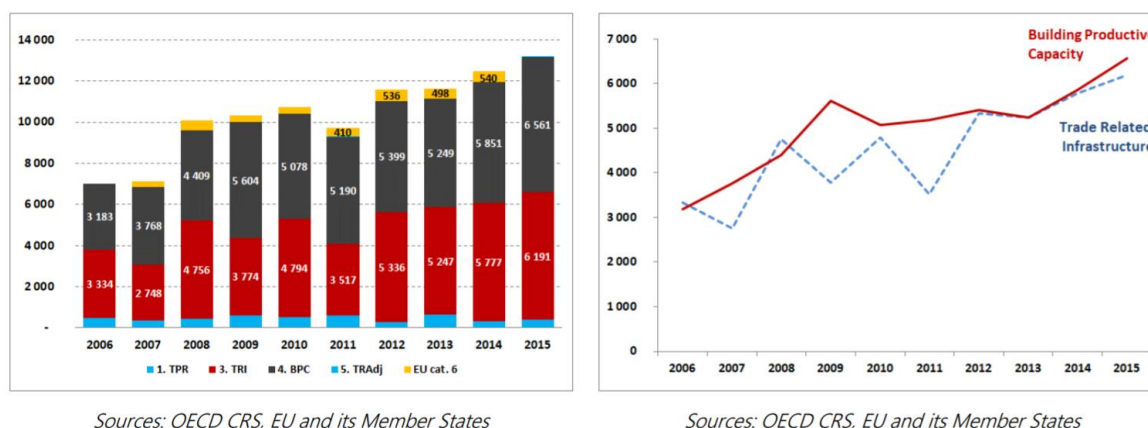
Figure 2. AFT for ACP countries (million EUR). Left EU institutions and right EU member states.



### Investment channel:

The new focus of EU AfT is towards enhancing its effectiveness and impact by linking it to investment and leveraging trade drivers. Next to investments through the EIB, the EU has launched the External Investment Plan (EIP) in 2017.<sup>13</sup> It focuses on Africa and the direct neighbours of the EU with the aim to increase access to finance, in particular for LDCs to improve their private sector (including micro, small and medium enterprises) and for infrastructure (ports, roads and digital connectivity). With a contribution of €4.1 billion from the European Commission, the External Investment Plan is expected to leverage more than €44 billion of investments by 2020. The 4.1 billion is placed in the European Fund for Sustainable Development (2.6 billion as indicative budget and 1.5 billion as a guarantee instrument) and comes with technical assistance to help beneficiaries to develop financially attractive and mature projects, and support for improving investment climate in countries. The EIP will contribute directly to the EPA support and assistance for African countries.

Figure 3. AFT by category, EU institutions, and EU member states (million EUR). On the right a focus on two main categories.



The investment channel is one of the main channels of planning and building infrastructure to stimulate intra-regional and international trade (figure 3). For example, the Project Preparation Development Facility (PPDF), currently funded by the European Union (EU) and the German

<sup>13</sup> See for more information on the EC website: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/external-investment-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/external-investment-plan_en)

Development Cooperation facilitates rapid implementation of the SADC Infrastructure Development Sector Plans, in particular the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP).<sup>14</sup> This is to contribute to a boost in economic development and regional economic integration in the SADC Region. The PPDF will help SADC and its Member States to bridge the gap between project idea and bankable projects in the sectors of energy, water supply, transport, telecommunications and tourism infrastructure by providing project preparation funding. The PPDF provides grant funding for the preparation and development of bankable infrastructure projects by way of providing technical assistance towards project identification, project selection and feasibility studies for eligible projects as well as the creation of an appropriate enabling environment.

### EDF Regional and National Indicative Programmes:

The European Commission has committed funds from the 11th EDF Regional and National Indicative Programmes (CRIP/NIP) to support EPA implementation. For example, CARIFORUM States, as the first region to implement a comprehensive EPA, received from the EU under the 11th EDF Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP) €346 million (double that of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF CRIP), which provides for a significant allocation for Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration, including provision for EPA implementation. The overall allocation for the Caribbean region for the period 2014-2020 has been maintained at €1 billion (CRIP/NIP).<sup>15</sup> The current Regional Indicative Programme for West Africa (ECOWAS) has an envelope of EUR 1.15 billion (2014-2020) and has a specific focus on regional integration, including programmes on Aid for Trade, private sector support and infrastructure development. Specific attention will be paid to realising the infrastructure potential of the region in transport and in energy.

Figure 5. 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Regional Indicative Programme per region (total and labelled for trade).

Region	RIP envelope (EUR)	Including for trade (EUR)
Central Africa	350 million	60 million
West Africa	1.15 billion	145 million
Eastern Africa, Southern Africa & the Indian Ocean	1.33 billion	500 million
Pacific	166 million	20 million
Caribbean	346 million	96 million

Source: European Commission Support for Trade Facilitation (January 2017):  
[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/february/tradoc\\_155332.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/february/tradoc_155332.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> See for more information on PPDF: <http://www.sadcpdf.org/>

<sup>15</sup> From the Joint Communiqué EU-CARIFORUM 2017: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/11/17/fourth-meeting-of-the-joint-cariforum-eu-council/>

Trade<sup>16</sup> and Private Sector Development (PSD)<sup>17</sup> are both important parts of the RIPs/NIPs. Via the trade programmes, the European Commission focusses mainly on capacity building, technical assistance and information exchange for implementing EPAs, both for public and private sector actors. The idea is that its regional aspects contribute to macroeconomic stability, stimulates regional markets and creates a favourable investment climate. With PSD it helps ACP countries to implement economic reforms and assists the development of their small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Several programmes and initiatives have been established, like the private sector enabling facility BizClim (technical assistance to improve legislation and institutional agreements), Competitive Industries and Innovation Programme (CIIP), and the Capacity Building programme for mineral institutions and of small-scale private sector operating in low-value minerals in ACP countries (improving the commercial mining sector).

## Evolution of EPA support programmes

The EU has no centralised EPA support programme/facility and AfT related support for EPAs could come from many different programmes and initiatives. The European Commission has established several programmes that directly link to trade development, technical assistance and capacity building for ACP countries (see a list of individual projects and initiatives Appendix 2). These programmes are mainly funded through the European Development Fund.<sup>18</sup>

The development of EU AfT evolved from being linked with WTO rules to being linked to FTAs, like EPAs and regional economic integration processes. Another trend that can be seen in the literature and online resources is that trade and development support is becoming less technical with a shift towards trade facilitation, PSD and Investment (EC, 2017). Over the last years the EU includes more ODA loans from EIB (see figure below). Although hard infrastructure, like ports and road construction, remain important investments, there is also a new focus, simulated through the WTO AfT initiative for digital connectivity and the importance of investments in online environments (WTO, 2017).

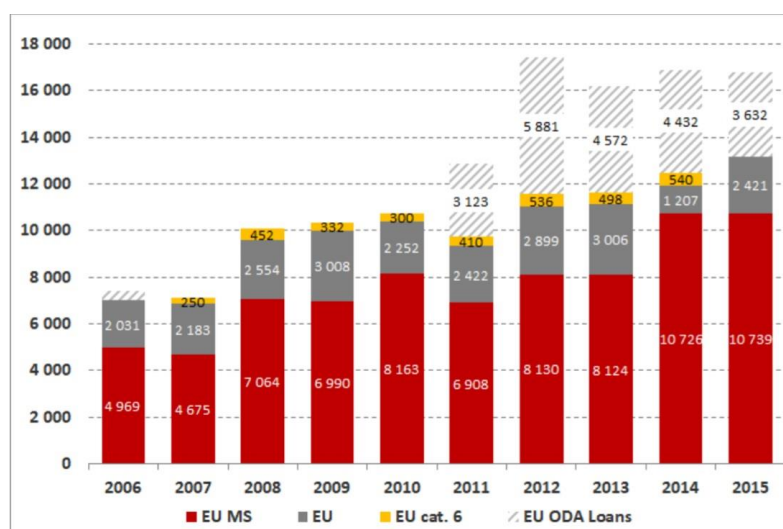


Figure 6. Total AfT by EU institutions and EU member states (millions EUR).

Source: European Commission (2017, p.14).

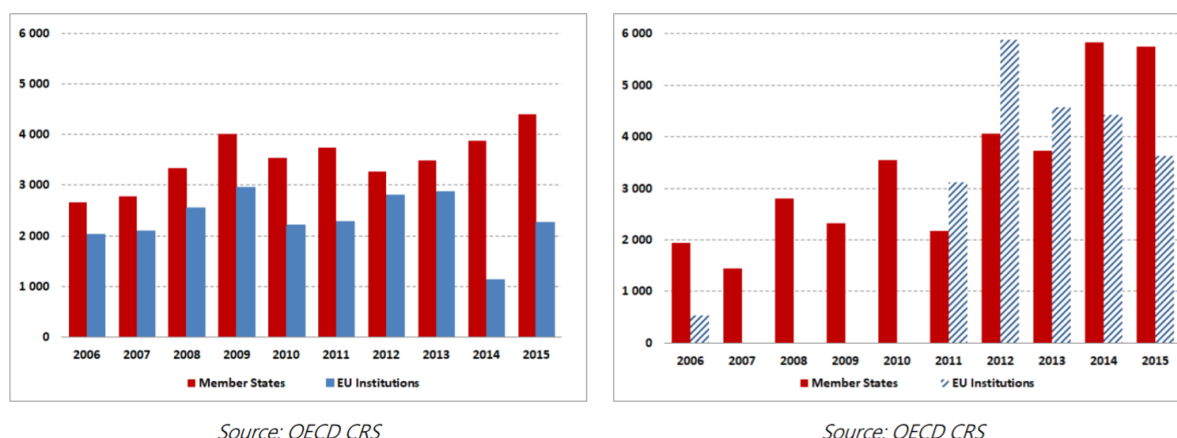
<sup>16</sup> See more on trade within the RIPs/NIPs on the website of the European Union:

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region/acp-multi-country-cooperation/trade-relationship\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region/acp-multi-country-cooperation/trade-relationship_en)

<sup>17</sup> See for more information on the EC website: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region/acp-multi-country-cooperation/private-sector\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region/acp-multi-country-cooperation/private-sector_en)

<sup>18</sup> Information retrieved from the website of the European Commission: EU ACP multi-country cooperation on trade relationship [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region/acp-multi-country-cooperation/trade-relationship\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region/acp-multi-country-cooperation/trade-relationship_en)

Figure 7. AFT ODA grants (left) and AFT ODA loans (right) in millions EUR.



The Cotonou Agreement (ACP Group of countries) will terminate in 2020 as will the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF NIP and RIP, creating uncertainty about budget, terms and priorities for development support after 2020. The EU has started negotiations for a new budget for 2020-2027 and the future of the ACP Group of countries. Brexit is one of the issues that plays a role in these negotiations. The current main EU programmes on trade assistance are:

### TradeCom II Programme:

The TradeCom II Programme (<http://www.tradecom-acpeu.org/index.cfm>) is designed to target both regional and multilateral trade issues. On the Regional aspect, the programme focusses on strengthening the capacity of ACP countries and regions to formulate and implement suitable trade policies as well as to negotiate and implement bilateral and regional trade agreements (including ACP-EU EPAs and All-ACP economic cooperation arrangements) to their benefits. For doing so the programme uses a combination of technical assistance and capacity building actions. Under the regional trade thematic area, the programme focusses its activities on the following specific objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity of ACP countries and regions to formulate and implement suitable trade policies;
- To strengthen inclusive trade policy formulation and implementation processes;
- To strengthen capacity to effectively negotiate and implement bilateral and regional trade agreements;
- To analyse the impact of trade agreements and trade disputes;
- To strengthen institutional capacities in the design and lead trade-related projects;
- To strengthen competitiveness capacity of private sector traders and trade facilitation institutions;
- To strengthen national and regional institutions in managing cross-border trade and the underlying legal framework;
- To support national and regional customs services in simplifying, standardising, harmonising and updating their systems with standard modern practice;
- To strengthen capacity of national and regional customs agencies in developing and implementing internationally compliant customs legislation and systems;
- To facilitate intra-ACP customs cooperation.

Its predecessors were **Trade.Com Facility** (2004-2012) and the **ACP Multilateral Trading System** (MTS) (2009-2014).<sup>19</sup> The EUR 16 million MTS programme assisted ACP countries in developing their negotiating capacities, implementing multilateral trade agreements and integrating trade into national development plans. The main purposes of the Programme were:

- To assist ACP countries in reforming and adjusting to the multilateral trading system;
- To improve their capacity to negotiate and implement multilateral trade agreements;
- To integrate trade into the development process of the ACP countries; and
- To facilitate accession of ACP member countries to the WTO.

### **Hub & Spokes II - Enhancing Trade Capacity Development in ACP States:**

This programme (<http://hub-spokes.org/>) enhances the capacity of ACP countries to formulate suitable trade policies, participate effectively in international trade negotiations and implement international trade agreements to their benefit. It will work according to the current local priorities through a network of permanent trade advisors based at ACP trade ministries and ACP Regional Economic Community Secretariats. With the support of the ACP Group Secretariat, €12 million was secured from the European Union's 10th European Development Fund for Hub & Spokes II. The Commonwealth and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie are co-donors and executing agencies, contributing €2.5 million and €1.2 million, respectively. The ACP Group Secretariat is the global partner. Assistance to the ACP regions is being provided in partnership with key regional organisations and national ministries of trade in beneficiary countries, and in collaboration with other development organisations working on aid for trade.

Under the programme, trade advisers – the ‘spokes’ – strengthen and enhance the capacity of government ministries, while regional trade advisers – the ‘hubs’ – provide assistance to major regional organisations. During the first phase of the programme, which ran from 2004-2012 with a budget of €29 million, more than 34,000 officials from all ACP countries were trained on trade related issues. The programme has been considered a significant success by the Commonwealth Secretariat, especially in terms of the model used in having advisors both at the national and the regional level. The second phase (€15.7 million) of the programme will focus on the capacity of key stakeholders in the public and private sectors in ministries, academic institutions and civil society organisations to contribute to the formulation, negotiation and implementation of trade policies and agreements.

### **Technical Barriers to Trade:**

This programme (<http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/>) launched in 2013 tackles technical barriers to trade (TBT) in external markets. It is also helping ACP countries define and enforce harmonised technical regulations in internal markets. The ACP-EU TBT Programme's main objective is to contribute to improved competitiveness in local, regional and export markets by enhancing the export capacity of economic operators in ACP countries, through:

- The enhancement of the capacity of regional and continental quality infrastructure institutions: i) To coordinate and harmonise ACP Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures to facilitate intra-regional trade and ii) To represent ACP countries' and region's interest in TBT related international fora, in particular the WTO TBT Committee;

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<sup>19</sup> See the website of MTS: <http://www.acp.int/content/acp-mts-programme>

- A broadened capacity of economic operators to comply with Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures set by major trading partners in selected priority sectors;
- The Dissemination of results and experiences to raise capabilities for providing support at the intra-ACP level.

It strengthens the capacity of ACP countries and their regional organisations in complying with TBT on external markets, encouraging their effective participation in the shaping of TBT issues. It defines and enforces legitimate and adequately harmonised technical regulations on their internal markets in conformity with existing WTO agreements. The Programme addresses TBT issues in ACP countries at three levels, namely:

- Upgrading and strengthening Quality Infrastructure and related institutions
- Empowering economic operators and export sectors to comply with international market requirements
- Disseminating results, good practices and experiences.

#### **Other EU-led programmes/initiatives that can be linked to EPAs:**

- **Standards and trade development facility:** This is a global partnership to help countries develop capacity so they are able to implement international sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards, and bring in guidelines and recommendations to improve human, animal and plant health as well as boost market access. <http://www.standardsfacility.org/>
- **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT):** The EU's FLEGT programme is improving governance in the forestry sector, contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable management of forestry resources. A FLEGT Action Plan sets out how to prevent the import of illegal wood into the EU, improve the supply of legal timber and increase demand for wood from responsibly-managed forests. <http://www.euflegt.efi.int/home/>

#### **Some trade assistance programmes that have been closed:**

- **Pesticides Initiative Programme (PIP) (2009-2015):** The EU was providing support to the second phase of the PIP of the quality and conformity of fruits and vegetable programme. This was helping ACP countries to comply with EU regulations on pesticides for fruit and vegetables. ACP countries risk losing market share because of international competition and increasingly stringent market access demands.
- **Strengthening food safety systems through sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures project (EDES) (2010-2016):** It was helping small producer organisations in ACP countries produce safe food for local, regional and international consumers.
- **Technical assistance facility (TAF) of the African Agriculture Fund (AAF) (2011-2017):** The EU was contributing to the set-up of this facility to enable small businesses, small-scale farmers, farmers' organisations and cooperatives benefit from the AAF's investment windows.
- **EU-Africa partnership on cotton:** The EU was contributing to the consolidation of the action framework for the EU-Africa partnership on cotton, set up to address the consequences of the decrease in cotton prices since the 1990s. It has both development and trade components. The programme benefits cotton producer associations, professional associations and regional economic organisations.
- **All-ACP agricultural commodities programme (AAACP) (2007-2011):** This was helping ACP producers of traditional and other commodities farmers' improving productivity and competitiveness, increasing returns on labour, reducing income



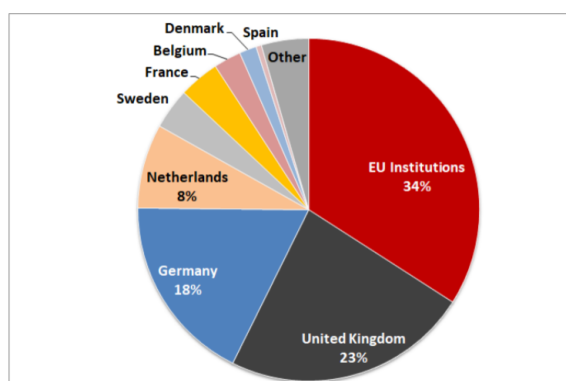
fluctuations, opening up new market opportunities and facilitating the use of market-based risk management instruments.

### EU member states:

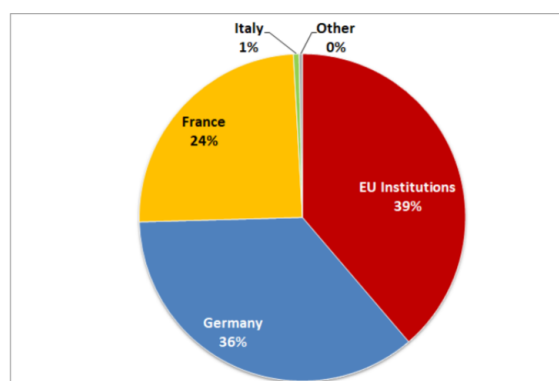
EU member states (in particular Germany, France, United Kingdom, the Netherlands) run many AfT projects, although, not all related to EPAs. For example, the Trade Advocacy Fund is a DFID support programme aimed at LDCs in order to capacitate them in trade negotiations. Some programmes aim to bring different regions together. The German BMZ supports regional organisations (CARIFORUM and SADC), their member states, the private sector and civil society in implementing the EPAs between the EU and ACP States in a way that fosters sustainable development (Supporting sustainability aspects in the implementation of the EU Economic Partnership Agreements). The capacity development strategy focuses on cooperation and networking in the sector, promoting dialogue and cooperation among representatives of government, private sector and civil society. This multi-stakeholder approach ensures that EPA implementation is designed to meet the needs of individual groups of stakeholders. Others, like the Netherlands, focus more on trade aspects in international value chains in their IDH initiative.

Some insights from EU member states is that in particular France and Germany (see the figures below) look increasingly to the investment side of trade support with loans, while the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Sweden, Belgium and Denmark are more focussed on ODA grants. Another insight is that EU member states focus more on energy and banking and finance sectors, while the EU institutions focus more on agriculture and transport and storage sectors (see below).

Figure 8. AfT as a % of ODA grants (left). AfT as % of ODA loans (right).

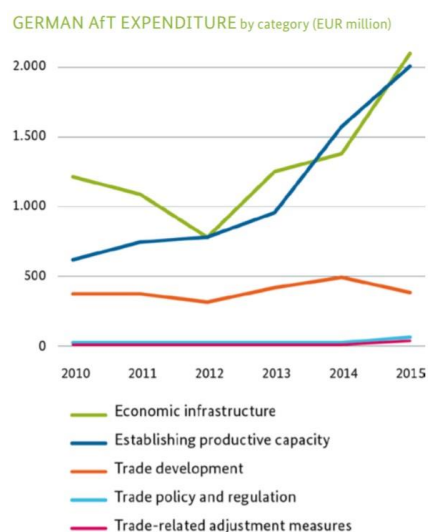


Source: OECD CRS



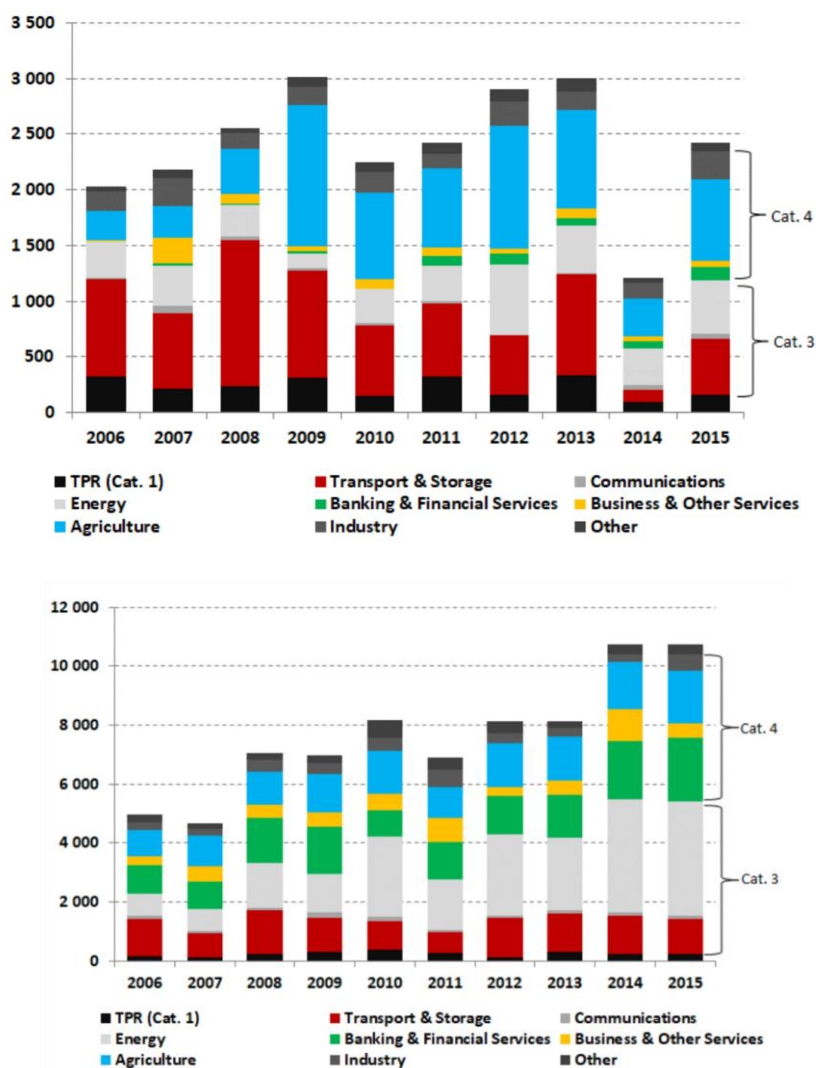
Source: OECD CRS

Figure 9. AFT Germany



Above - Source: BMZ (2017)

Figure 10. AFT by sector: Below EU institutions - under EU member states.



Right - Source: European Commission (2017)

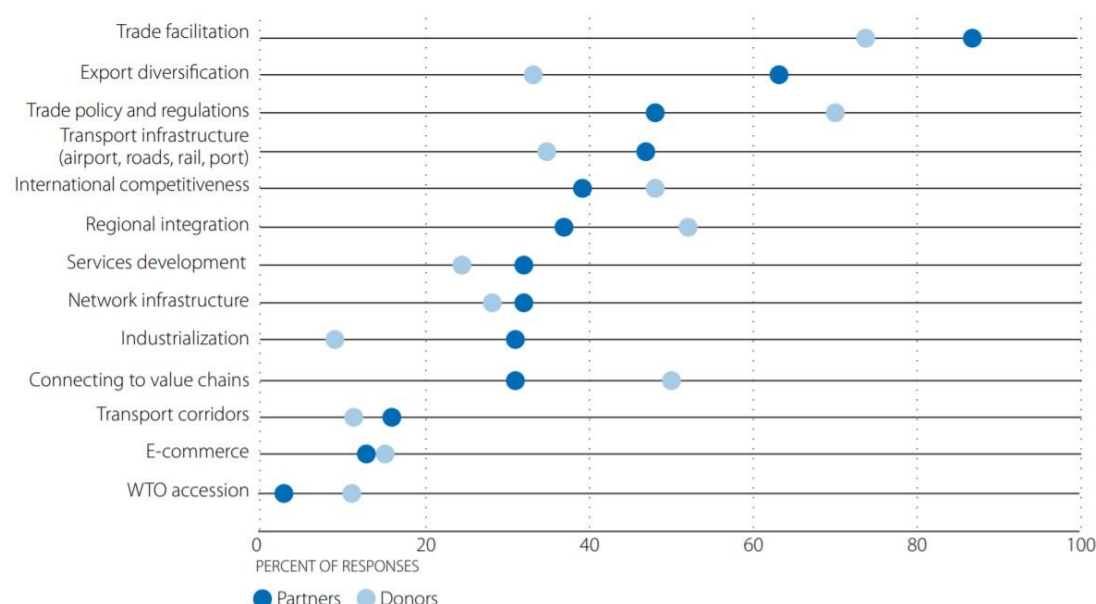
## 5. Insights on efficiency of EPA support

The literature on the impact of trade-related assistance programmes shows that it indeed has improved partner countries' knowledge of trade policy issues and contributed to their integration into the multilateral trading system. One evaluation of three EU trade assistance programmes (Trade.Com, MTS and EPA support programme) shows that the EU and the ACP Group play an important role in helping developing countries to strengthen their capacity to formulate trade policies consistent with national development plans, participate in trade negotiations and implement trade agreements that facilitate market access.<sup>20</sup> Yet the long-term impact of such support on development and poverty reduction is often difficult to assess. Even if EU trade-related assistance programmes achieved positive results, further improvements are required, in particular regarding aid programming, donor harmonisation and donor-recipient partnerships, to enhance the effectiveness of trade-related assistance programmes. More focus is now on

<sup>20</sup> Evaluation by Transtec for the EU and ACP Group, titled "Trade assistance through multiple partnerships: findings of the evaluation of three EU-funded trade assistance programmes in the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) region." <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/file/29180/download?token=qexpdpr7> (PDF).

combining trade assistance support on the demand-side with strengthening developing countries' supply-side capacity to allow them to become more competitive in the international markets.

Figure 11. AfT priorities for partners and donor agencies



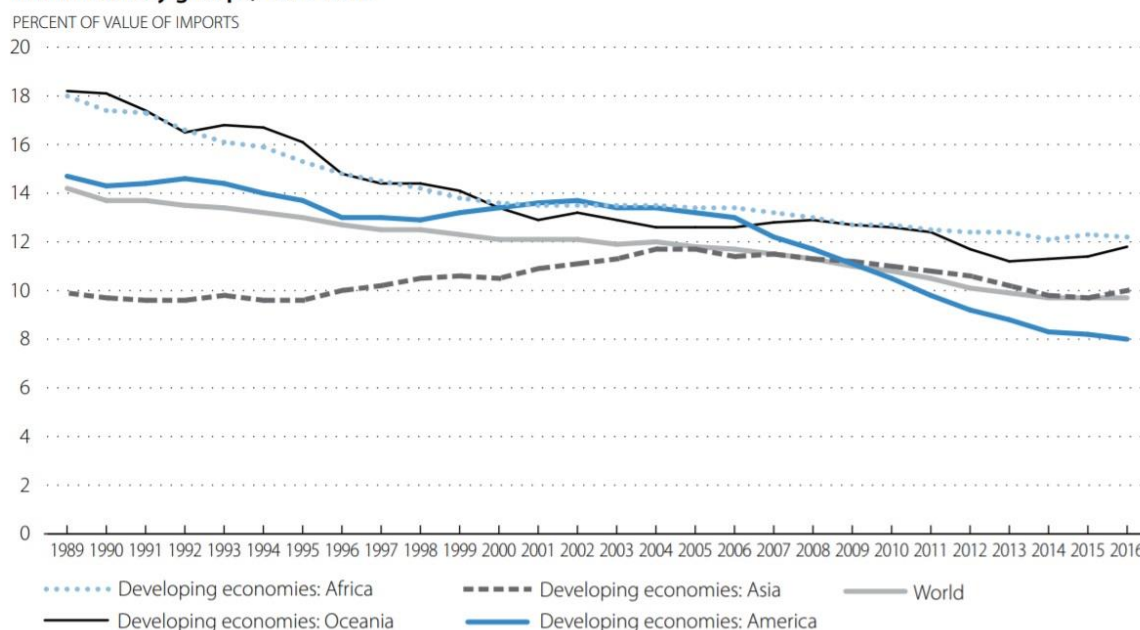
Source: WTO/OECD (2017)

The OECD/WTO (2017) AfT monitor shows where the needs and demands are according to partners and donors regarding AfT. Interesting is that Trade policy and regulations, Regional integration and connecting to value chains are all seen more important by donors than partners, while export diversification and transport infrastructure are much more important for partner countries (see figure above).

Ferro et al. (2012) find that a 10% increase in aid to transportation, ICTs, energy, and banking services is associated with increases in the exports of manufactured goods from the recipient countries of 2.0%, 0.3%, 6.8% and 4.7%, respectively. Aid for trade also has potential to reduce trade costs (see for example figure below). Cali and Te Velde (2011) examined the impact of aid for trade on trade costs and exports; they found that a USD 1 million increase in aid-for-trade facilitation is associated with a 6% reduction in the cost of packing, loading and shipping to the transit hub. Busse et al (2012), using panel data on 99 developing countries covering the period 2004-09, show that aid for trade is closely associated with lowering trade costs, and therefore may play an important role in helping developing countries benefit from trade.

Figure 12. Trade costs through time

**Figure 1.4. Freight and insurance costs as a percentage of the value of imports, ten-year moving averages within country groups, 1989-2016**



Source: WTO/OECD (2017)

Cirera and Winters (2014) find that aid for trade has a positive impact on exporting and importing times in sub-Saharan African countries, but other factors explain differing experiences in structural change. Helble et al. (2012) empirically assess the relationship between different aid-for-trade categories and trade performance. They find that a 1% increase in aid-for-trade facilitation could generate a USD 415 million increase in global trade. OECD-WTO (2013a) finds that one US dollar invested in aid for trade is on average associated with an increase of nearly eight US dollars in exports from all developing countries and an increase of twenty US dollars in exports from the poorest countries. These effects were found to be even higher for exports of parts and components.

On the basis of such outcomes Martuscelli and Winters (2014) conclude that trade liberalisation generally boosts income and thus reduces poverty, with gains for those working in the export sector and losses in the import-competing sector. A fairly common finding is that female workers gain from trade liberalisation as they find work in export sectors. De Melo and Wagner (2015) confirm these findings and observe that aid for trade has also helped reduce poverty through other channels. For example, aid targeted to building productive capacities in agriculture and insurance schemes that remove risks can raise the productivity of households that are close to the poverty line. Road rehabilitation can also reduce the monopolistic power of traders in remote areas, thereby raising the incomes of the poor from sales of their agricultural production. Ghimire et al (2016) find that aid for trade has positive and significant effects on multiple measures of export performance. However, they also find that aid for trade exhibits diminishing returns.

The 2015 independent evaluation of the Netherlands' Centre for the Promotion of Imports (CBI) from Developing Countries (Netherlands, 2015) concluded that technical assistance to individual companies for strengthening their competitive edge in European markets, and for improvement of business support organisations in developing countries, has been successful in helping

companies to overcome scarcity of market information and market entry barriers. This was not always sufficient, however, to increase exports. In some cases, observed export increases could not always be (fully) attributed to CBI programmes and activities. CBI's contribution was, therefore, judged more modest when set against the ultimate intended trade performance goals (Netherlands, 2015). An independent evaluation of Finland's Aid for Trade Action Plan 2012-15 (Finland, 2016) found that it is not possible to measure the impact at the aggregate level; at the project level, however, there is ample proof that positive results and impact were achieved. Many projects in Finland's priority sectors, such as water, energy, environment, ICT and innovation, forestry and fisheries, have also led to increased involvement of private sector partners in developing countries. The evaluation recommends integrating aid for trade into existing and new development policy strategies, and strengthening private sector involvement and multi-stakeholder participation in aid-for-trade planning and implementation.

The Australian Office of Development Effectiveness examined 24 aid-for-trade projects to identify lessons that could be learned to help guide the scope and focus of the upcoming aid-for-trade evaluation (Australia, 2016). Recalling the findings of Aid for Trade in Action (OECD-WTO, 2013) the report highlights the need for trade to be mainstreamed into a country or region's development strategy, and for donors to align their strategies around recipient countries' existing trade priorities. Identifying bottlenecks and binding constraints are important prerequisites for designing successful aid-for-trade interventions.

A review of empirical findings demonstrates the effectiveness of aid for trade in numerous settings and aspects. Te Velde et al. (2013) confirm that aid for trade, in general, is effective at both the micro and macro levels. They also note, that the impacts may vary considerably depending on the type of aid-for-trade intervention, the income level of the beneficiaries, the sector to which the support is directed and the geographical region of the recipient country. This is also in line with more critical voices of AfT programmes and trade assistance programmes, in particular to line emergent normativity-outcomes gaps between AfT discourse and its implications for the poor and vulnerable. In the words of Langan (2014): "It is illustrative to contrast the development narratives embodied within AfT programmes with the tangible implications of specific AfT assistance for improving local infrastructure, enhancing trade governance capacity and promoting PSD."

In this context the lines between just and unjust trade are blurred in the debate and alternative development strategies are marginalised. The development credentials of AfT measures implemented by the EU are doubtful, according to Langan (2014), particularly on inequality and power relations as AfT instruments stabilise asymmetric economic structures that are "detrimental to the needs of 'the poor' in developing countries". In this sense the emerging debate about the role of trade and development for DFID (UKaid) after Brexit is an interesting one, as the UK could break from its past contributions within the EU trade and development discourse and emphasise the need for an alternative fair and just trade system, which could apply to the ACP countries (Langan, 2016).

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## Appendix 1. State of Affairs around EPAs per region

Region	Current status	Next steps
<b>West Africa</b>	<p>The stepping stone EPA with Côte d'Ivoire was signed on 26 November 2008, approved by the European Parliament on 25 March 2009, and ratified by the Ivoirian National Assembly on 12 August 2016. It entered into provisional application on 3 September 2016. The second meeting of the joint EPA committee took place in Abidjan on 21-22 March 2018. It discussed the state of play of implementation and related issues (liberalisation schedule, rules of origin...)</p> <p>The stepping stone EPA with Ghana was signed on 28 July 2016, ratified on 3 August 2016 by the Ghanaian Parliament and approved by the European Parliament on 1 December 2016. It entered into provisional application on 15 December 2016. The first Meeting of the joint EPA committee with Ghana took place on 24 January 2018 in Accra. It laid the foundations of the interim EPA.</p> <p>Negotiations of the regional EPA were closed by Chief Negotiators on 6 February 2014 in Brussels. The text was initiated on 30 June 2014. All EU Member States and 13 West African Countries signed the EPA in December 2014, except Nigeria, Mauritania and The Gambia.</p> <p>Mauritania and ECOWAS signed an Association Agreement on 9 August 2017 to define the country's participation in ECOWAS' trade policy including the EPA.</p>	<p>Stepping stone EPAs with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana: the agreements are provisionally applied. The next technical meeting with Ghana will take place beginning of July 2018. The next technical meeting with Côte d'Ivoire is foreseen in October 2018.</p> <p>Regional EPA: After signature by all the Parties, the agreement will be submitted for ratification.</p>
<b>Central Africa</b>	<p>Cameroon signed the EPA between the EU and Central Africa as the only country in the region on 15 January 2009. The European Parliament gave its consent in June 2013. In July 2014 the Parliament of Cameroon approved the ratification of the Agreement and on 4 August 2014 the agreement entered into provisional application. The third EPA Committee between Cameroon and the EU took place on 7 and 8 December 2017 in Brussels. It discussed the state of play of implementation and related issues (liberalization state of play, updating of the liberalization timetable, rules of origin, accompanying measures, fiscal impact, rendez-vous clauses, etc.).</p> <p>Contacts are ongoing between the region and the EU on accession to this EPA by other Central African countries.</p>	<p>Meeting of the EPA Committee: The fourth meeting is scheduled to take place in Yaoundé in December 2018. In the meantime, discussions continue between the Parties to deepen the implementation of the agreement. Negotiations are also ongoing to agree a joint protocol on rules of origin.</p>

## Eastern and Southern Africa

In 2009 Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The Agreement is provisionally applied since 14 May 2012. The European Parliament gave its consent on 17 January 2013. The inaugural EPA Committee was held in October 2012 in Brussels, and the latest, sixth, meeting took place in October 2017 in Antananarivo (Madagascar). The Customs Cooperation Committee and the Joint Development Committee also met alongside the EPA Committee. During this meeting, both Parties agreed on a package modernizing the rules of origin for this EPA. Both Parties agreed to submit each other their proposal with a view to jointly defining the scope and objectives of the possible deepening of the current agreement before launching negotiations.

The Parties are exploring the scope and objectives of a possible deepening of the current agreement: a meeting to discuss the Parties' proposals will take place in June of 2018.

Meeting of the EPA Committee: the seventh meeting will take place in Brussels in June 2018.

## East African Community

The negotiations for the regional EPA were successfully concluded on 16 October 2014. On 1 September 2016, Kenya and Rwanda signed the Economic Partnership Agreement between the East African Community and the EU. All EU Member States and the EU have also signed the Agreement. The EAC Summit of 20 May 2017 requested from EU to provide clarifications on issues raised by certain EAC members. The EU provided these clarifications.

The EAC Summit of 23 February 2018 mandated President Museveni to follow up on the way forward for the EPA.

## South Africa Development Community

On 15 July 2014 the EPA negotiations were successfully concluded in South Africa. The agreement was signed by the EU and the SADC EPA group on 10 June 2016 and the European Parliament gave its consent on 14 September 2016. Pending ratification by all EU Member States, the agreement came provisionally into force as of 10 October 2016. The provisional application for Mozambique started on 4 February 2018. The third meeting of the Trade and Development Committee took place on 22-23 February 2018 in Brussels.

Following provisional application, the Parties are addressing implementation issues including the twin questions of EPA monitoring and civil-society involvement and putting in place the institutional framework for the Agreement. A first Joint Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2019 and should put in place the institutional and dispute settlement framework.

## Caribbean

The CARIFORUM – EU EPA was signed in October 2008 and approved by the European Parliament in March 2009.

The EPA joint institutions are Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (ministers), Trade and Development Committee (senior officials), and Consultative Committee (representing civil society).

The Parties continue to work on the further implementation of the various aspects of the EPA; agree on a joint system for monitoring the EPA; negotiate an agreement to protect geographical indications (GIs), valuable regional product names.

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## Pacific

The EU and Papua New Guinea (PNG) signed the EPA on 30 July and Fiji on 11 December 2009. The EP gave its consent on 19 January 2011. The Parliament of PNG ratified the EPA on 25 May 2011. On 17 July 2014 Fiji decided to start provisionally applying the Agreement.

In the meantime, Samoa and Solomon Islands have recently informed the EU of their intentions to accede to the existing EPA. Samoa has submitted a formal request (dated 5 February 2018) with WTO-compatible market access offer to the EU for consideration.

To launch internal procedures towards the accession of Samoa. To organize the sixth Trade Committee before the end of 2018.

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Source: European Commission, Trade Department, updated until May 2018.

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/september/tradoc\\_144912.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/september/tradoc_144912.pdf)

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## Appendix 2. EPA support projects and initiatives per region

### West Africa

**Support for the implementation of the West Africa-EU EPA and the implementation of a Dispute Settlement Regional Framework Programme (2017)** - The project was developed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the ECOWAS commission. It is designed to support the ECOWAS Commission to strengthen their capacity to implement the West Africa - EU EPA. The purpose of this project are two. The first one will lead to a better understanding of the EPA and its ownership by all the stakeholders (parliamentarians, ECOWAS/WAEMU experts, private sector and the civil society). The second purpose is to establish a regional legal framework in dispute settlement for resolving trade disputes and to ensure that agreements are enforced and settled. <http://www.tradecom-acpeu.org/imcustom/Programme%20Arch%20Files/ECOWAS/ECOWAS%20-%20NL%204%20Programme%20Highlights.pdf>

**West Africa Trade Integration Programme (WATIP) (2014-2018)** - In conjunction with GIZ, the EU implements WATIP, which aims to accelerate the process of achieving a customs union by supporting the ECOWAS Commission in improving the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS), developing a common trade policy, facilitating the harmonisation of trade-related policies and statistical data, as well as disseminating trade-related information. The support consists of strengthening sector-specific expertise at the ECOWAS Commission and enhancing its strategic management structures and capacities. This should facilitate the design and implementation of regional agreements on taxes, customs, tariffs and other trade-related issues, and also support reform processes in conflict prevention and mediation. [http://www.ecowas.int/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WATIP-Factsheet\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ecowas.int/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WATIP-Factsheet_EN.pdf)

**Accelerating Trade in West Africa (ATWA) (2015-2017)** – ATWA is an initiative that aims to establish a multi-donor vehicle dedicated to advancing regional integration, expanding trade and lowering trade costs along key trade routes in West Africa. ATWA is financed by the Danish aid agency, Danida, although the aim is to add other development partners along the way. The ATWA scoping and design phase was been finished in 2016. <http://openaid.um.dk/en/projects/dk-1-240003>

**Strengthening Export competitiveness for inclusive growth in Mauritius, especially in the context of the i-EPA Implementation (2017)** – Developed by the TradeCom II Programme this project's objectives are to enable a smooth implementation of the i-EPA, the purpose of the project is two-fold: (i) enhance the business environment for exporting SMEs; (ii) promote exports of the Mauritius private sector including SMEs, women and young entrepreneurs. Implementing the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) in the ECOWAS region for the development of the regional ICT sector. The purpose of the project is to support the participation of ECOWAS Member States in the ITA Agreement to promote the regional ICT sector for sustainable development and to contribute to poverty eradication. This will facilitate the integration of the ECOWAS region into the global economy, diversify economies of the region and help in the development of the ICT sector. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P016\\_Mauritius\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P016_Mauritius_WebEOI.pdf)

**Establishment of an integrated Quality Management System within the Burkinabé Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Quality (2015-2016)** - TBT's intervention aims to support ABNORM in Burkina Faso in promoting the quality culture and setting up a quality management system within its departments and directorates. The project has a duration of 9 months and revolves around the following actions: (i) inventory and analysis of the needs of ABNORM, selection of private structures and laboratories for coaching; (ii) training staff of the various ABNORM departments and directorates on the application and implementation of specific ISO standards; (iii) theoretical and practical training of 10 quality auditors including 5 from ABNORM and 5 from private structures; (iv) training of laboratory personnel for the in-depth understanding and implementation of ISO / IEC Standard 17025; (v) after 2 months of implementation of the previous activities, a mission of monitoring and evaluation of the activities and a national awareness workshop on the quality approach and presentation of the results of the project is planned. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD4E380FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Capacity Building for National TBT in the Gambia (2015-2016)** - The MOTIE (Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment) in the Gambia has overall responsibility for trade and competition policies, and takes the lead role in trade negotiations in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among its duties the MOTIE has received the mandate of building national capacities to enhance compliance with WTO/TBT agreement. The executing branch for accomplishing this



task is the Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB) whose main objective is to standardise methods, processes and products produced and consumed in the Gambia. In the framework of strengthening its capacity, this project is focused on the implementation of capacity building actions addressed to the different national TBT related structures and in particular to: (i) the TBT Enquiry Focal Point (TGSB), (ii) the National Notification Authority (at the MOTIE), (iii) the technical committees for national standards development in the field of food, agriculture and electro-technical. A special attention is also addressed to the need of increasing public awareness and capacity of relevant stakeholders in the field of the WTO/TBT Agreement. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66F4D78CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD>

**Enhancing EU Market Access for Handicrafts from Ghana, Sierra Leone (2015-2016)** - It has been acknowledged that challenges in the West African region have shifted the focus of these countries from agriculture exports to diversification into small-scale manufactured products including the production and exports of handicrafts mainly used as decorative pieces in households and office environment. The small-scale handicraft producers predominantly present in the ECOWAS region have limited access to global markets in Europe and elsewhere due to lack of information about expected quality and safety standards of their art works. In addition, they also have limited knowledge of the markets in Europe and elsewhere, to establish the necessary professional links for business purposes, exchange of experience and the sharing of best practises. A key issue for the culture sector in most West African countries is access to regional and international markets for their handicraft products, especially in the area of Artefacts and Crafts. The purposes of the project are: to enhance knowledge amongst key Government Ministries and Agencies, standards bodies, private sector and other stakeholders on quality schemes and applicable international and EU standards for the handicraft market in order to facilitate access for West African Handicraft to the EU and global markets through improved regulation of quality certification schemes and to promote socio-economic growth and rural poverty reduction through the technical assistance on drafting specifications and training craftsmen with a view of creating a regional system for the protection of traditional knowledge and geographical traditional names for handicraft products. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD1E580FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Support to the Senegalese Association for Standardization (ASN) (2015-2016)** - Created in 1978, the Senegalese Standardization Institute became the ASN in 2002 under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Mines. ASN is responsible for developing national standards and promoting quality. ASN also conducts sensitisation and information activities of economic agents in Senegal on quality tools, methods and procedures for their implementation with a view to promoting a quality approach to goods and services and for the benefit of consumers and the economy. The project aims to support ASN to strengthen its capacity in three areas: (i) the management and promotion of the catalogue of standards and the TBT information system and notifications to the WTO; (ii) the specific product certification system; (iii) conformity assessment to improve the dissemination of standards and the product certification system in order to increase Senegal's competitiveness in local, regional and international markets. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD2E480FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Strengthening the capacity of agricultural sector actors in Togo to improve competitiveness on the international market (2015-2016)** - The beneficiaries of the project are the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Private Sector Promotion and Tourism (MCIPSPT). The APRM, beneficiary of the project, is mandated to implement state policy on agriculture, livestock and fisheries. The MCIPSPT is primarily responsible for the design, evaluation and implementation of trade policy. The lack of a national standardisation body is one of the major constraints to the proper functioning of quality promotion structures. While coordination between the structures in charge of control has improved in recent years, there are still gaps in the technical capacity and support of the private sector towards product conformity. The intervention of the TBT aims to support the APRM and MCIPSPT in the promotion of quality culture for a better integration of Togo in regional and global trade. The action is organised around the following actions: (i) Quality Infrastructure Assessment, Regulatory, Legislative and Operational Framework; (ii) capacity building of the APRM and Infrastructure Quality (IQ) structures through training on SPS and OCT requirements; (iii) support to the private sector for the establishment of a quality management system and food security through theoretical training and practical support in business; (iv) after 2 months of the implementation of previous activities, a monitoring and evaluation mission is foreseen to assess the impact of the activities carried out and to organize a national awareness-raising workshop on TBT and SPS requirements, international standards for the integration of Togo into regional and international trade. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD4E080FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Strengthening the competitiveness of Ghana-based exporters through effective export Quality Management Systems (QMS) (2014-2015)** - Ghana based exporting SMEs are unable to meet increasingly complex technical standards. Conformity assessment procedures require a high level technical expertise, especially in an environment where regulatory requirements set by trading partners and regulatory bodies in the export market countries happen to often change and to be increasingly

stringent. The Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Excellence (CLSCE) is a logistics and supply chain educational, research and advocacy not-for-profit organisation. The centre is committed to the promotion and development of logistics and supply chain excellence in Ghana. CLSCE identifies the difficulties to conform exporting products to set technical standards as a critical barrier to trade and envisages that implementation of effective Quality Management Systems in the working modalities of export operators is the antidote to this constraint. Implementation of QMS requires a strong focus on compliance with requirements and continuous improvement to also meet current and future needs. Moreover, if effective QMS are prescribed, numerous health, economic and social benefits as well as the general safety of consumers will be further promoted. The project aimed at building the capacity of CLSCE and other selected service providers in the field of Export Quality Management Systems and promote the adoption of international standards among exporting companies in selected sectors. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD3E180FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Support for ISO / IEC 17025: 2005 accreditation (2014-2015)** - VAGNY-LAB in Ivory Coast, created in 2000 and headquartered in Abidjan, is mandated to organise tests and analyses for laboratories. Its main benefits remain: physico-chemical analyses of water and food; environmental sanitation; and training. In the agri-food sector, the VAGNY-LAB laboratory is one of the few control structures working effectively in the control and evaluation of import and export products. Accreditation becomes imperative for national bodies involved in conformity assessment. The objective of this TBT project is to support the VAGNY-LAB laboratory in the implementation of a quality management system in accordance with the ISO standard. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD6E380FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Reinforcing ABMCQ in Benin for the elimination of OTC (2012-2013)** - The Benin Agency for Metrology and Quality Control (ABMCQ) is a regional training centre in the areas of capacity building for human resources, production of goods and services, analysis and research. However, metrology, one of the pillars of the quality infrastructure, remains a relatively poorly promoted and therefore poorly known discipline in the ECOWAS member states. The specific objective of the project as part of the Technical Barriers for Trade programme is to strengthen human resource capacity in the areas of metrology and quality management in Benin and include capacity building activities that will be carried out through 3 different types of training: (i) Training of ten technicians/trainers in the specific fields (Masses, Weighing, Pressure, Volume and Temperatures); (ii) Training of ten technicians in Quality Management Systems (QMS): training in the application of the ISO 17025 standard, the quality approach in metrology, and preparation for accreditation; (iii) Training of the Director of the ABMCQ in the field of Piloting and Management of a Metrology Structure for Accreditation. In addition, planned activities will include the organization of a National Seminar on Quality Infrastructure and a TBT Conference. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66F4D48CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEF806FAF8CD>

## Central Africa

**ECCAS Trade Capacity Building Programme (2017)** - Several specific projects (3) have been clustered in this programme designed by TradeCom II in collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). ECCAS is a regional economic community which was established in 1983. It has 11 member states comprising the six countries of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC): Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Chad and five other states: Angola, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda as well as Sao Tome and Principe. This programme which is of benefit to the ECCAS zone is based on three main pillars: (i) Support to the drafting and validation of an action plan for the assistance strategy for trade in central Africa; (ii) Support to the implementation process, in Central Africa, of the decisions of the 10th WTO ministerial Conference which held in Nairobi; and (iii) The establishment of a mechanism to promote the development of technological capacities, innovation and the competitiveness of central African countries. The areas of work considered within the framework of this programme shall contribute to: The preparation of a detailed action plan of the strategy including the identification of operational priority activities; Training of trainers on the implementation modalities of the strategy detailed action plan; The preparation of the Post-Nairobi road map and activities at the national level. <http://www.tradecom-acpeu.org/imcustom/Programme%20Arch%20Files/ECCAS/CEEAC%20-%20NL%209%20Programme%20Highlights.pdf>

**Optimisation of market access and legal tools related to Cameroon's trade policy (2017)** - A number of individual projects (17) were bundled into this programme that is designed by TradeCom II in collaboration with the Trade Ministry of the Republic of Cameroon. To date, Cameroon is the only country among the seven Central African States to have signed the EPA with the EU, and hence stands to benefit from preferential access to EU markets. However, apart from the low level of the country's exports, for most of the agricultural products exported by Cameroon, non-tariff barriers (NTBs) remain a major constraint. Furthermore, data on NTBs are limited and have shortcomings. This programme supports the identification of exportable products with higher potential to contribute to the attainment of the Government's export target. It will also identify modalities for reducing the scope of NTBs with the

view of enhancing the competitiveness of exporting companies and their effective access to the targeted EU taking advantage of the EPA provisions, and other export markets. To that end, the programme also will develop a built-in anticipation of new export regulations in order to specifically enhance compliance and quality standards. The programme contributes to: produce a market access mapping; drafting the Export National Strategy; understand and optimise the EPA trade opportunities; strengthen the capacities of national actors in the private and public sectors on subject-matters related to prevention, dispute settlement resolution and drafting of commercial contracts, and enhancing the capacities of national actors in the private and public sectors on subject-matters related to litigation on the anticompetitive practices. <http://www.tradecom-acpeu.org/imcustom/Programme%20Arch%20Files/CAMEROON/CAMEROUN%20-%20NL%207%20Programme%20Highlights.pdf>

**Capacity Building in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards in Cameroon (2016-2017)** - The TBT project aims to strengthen the capacity of Cameroonian stakeholders in sanitary quality and phytosanitary. The project focuses on the correct application of pesticides. It is articulated on two main axes: (i) the needs assessment with regard to the use of pesticides, through the review the current status of agrochemical legislation and the analysis of gaps with respect to applicable international instruments; (ii) assessment of the potential, both technical and human, of the four laboratories SPS (3) and Pesticide Control (1). <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD0E780FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Evaluation of the institutional and normative framework and analysis of the needs of the public sector in the field of TBT in Cameroon (2016)** - In 2010, it seemed necessary to provide the trade sector with a strategy to reduce the obstacles and to consider its development in the context of a structurally deficit trade balance and the challenges of entry into force of the EPA. The strategy adopted is in line with the government's option to invest in quality and quality control, to crack down on product quality fraud, and to reduce smuggling, in a bid to reduce improvement of consumer protection. It also aims to prevent and eliminate anti-competitive practices and to monitor the application of import standards. Ultimately, this strategy should lead to the resolution of the problems posed for a better expansion of the Cameroonian trade. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FED4E180FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Support to the central laboratory of ONCC in Cameroon (2014-2015)** - The proper functioning of the central analysis laboratory of ONCC is a fundamental element in the overall system of quality control of food products in Cameroon and therefore in the control of the food chain and food security. The specific objective of ONCC remains ISO 17025 accreditation to promote the quality of agricultural products of Cameroonian origin, of the sub-region and ensure the health protection of consumers. The planned activities for this TBT project consist of assistance in the form of training (managerial and technical) and expert services. Training on contaminant analysis methods and ISO 17025 Accreditation Preparation of ONCC, for example, training in analysis techniques by spectrophotometry and chromatography (liquid and gas phases); training in mycotoxin analysis methods: aflatoxins, fumonisins and ochratoxin A (OTA); training for analysis of pesticide residues, heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons polychlorinated biphenyls etc. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66F4D28CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD>

## East African Community

**Targeted Support to the EAC for the Implementation of the Tripartite FTA Agreement-Trade Policy and Export Development to the EU Market (2017)** - The overall objective of the TradeCom II project: support the beneficial integration of the East African States into the world economy by development of a framework for the elimination of non-trade barriers and foster trade development and expansion under the Tripartite free trade agreement. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P002-EAC\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P002-EAC_WebEOI.pdf)

**Trademark East Africa** – Eight donors (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, United States and the United Kingdom) have pooled their support and established a single non-profit organisation working across the East African Community (EAC) to further its integration agenda. The organisation, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) currently has a budget of USD650 million over 2011-2017 and works in the five EAC countries and South Sudan to reduce trade costs on major transport corridors and improve the business environment for trade and investment. <http://www.trademarka.com>

**Targeted Support to Kenya to Develop a Stakeholder-led and “Good Practice” Based Value Chain Compliance System for Exports to the EU (2017)** - In the context of fostering sustained competitiveness and access into the EU and other markets, the purpose of the TradeCom II project is three-fold: (i) To develop a stakeholder-led and “good practice” value chain compliance system for horticulture, manufacturing and aquaculture exports; (ii) To improve the capacity of the beneficiaries to access value chain compliance and export requirements that enhances and sustains access to the EU and other export markets; (iii) To mainstream the recognised export requirements and “good practice” both in the public and private sectors into the stakeholder-led value chain compliance system. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P022\\_Kenya\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P022_Kenya_WebEOI.pdf)

**Targeted Support to Rwanda to Improve its E-Commerce Environment and Export Facilitation for SMEs (2017)** - In the context of improving the competitiveness of the SMEs in the export markets and the related and new e-commerce environment, the purpose of this TradeCom II project is two-fold: (i) Improving e-commerce environment in Rwanda; (ii) Promoting exports of the Rwanda private sector including SMEs. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P020\\_Rwanda\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P020_Rwanda_WebEOI.pdf)

**Rwanda's Horticulture Trade Enhancement & Certification (HORTEC) Project (2016)** - The Rwanda Private Sector Federation (RPSF) is a professional-umbrella organisation, dedicated to promote and represent the interests of the Rwandan business community. It was established in December 1999, replacing the former Rwanda Chamber of Commerce and Industry. RPSF's mandate is to represent the interests of the private sector in Rwanda through advocacy, to promote the growth and expansion of the business community in Rwanda through the provision of business development and capacity building activities. The overall objective of the TBT project is to improve export, competitiveness and market access of Rwanda horticulture products. The purposes of this contract are to train and support selected small-scale farmers for the Global-G.A.P. certification and to strengthen the capacities of local service providers and National trade-related organisations to support horticulture producers and exporters in the process for certification. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD5E580FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Strengthening the capacity of RBS (Metrology, Testing Laboratories and Certification) (2014-2015)** - The Rwanda Bureau of Standards is in charge for the undertaking of all activities pertaining to the development of Standards, Quality assurance and Metrology in the country. With the EAC Integration process, each country is requested to produce/harmonise a number of standards needed for the implementation of the common market protocol. One of the key elements to ensure a free movement of goods is a fully harmonisation of standards and a mutual recognition in terms of the competence of testing, certification and Metrology infrastructure. All RBS Testing Laboratories and certification services shall be accredited in the future. The Biotechnology and Metrology Laboratories are already implementing relevant international Standards; the main objective of this intervention is to support them in their process of accreditation and thus foster national compliance with the EAC common market protocol and the WTO/TBT Agreement. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FBDE8CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD>

**Capacity Building for the Quality Infrastructure Institutions of Kenya (2015-2016)** - The beneficiaries of this project are the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS). The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is the government's principal body that is mandated to facilitate and guide the development of appropriate Standardisation and Conformity Assessment mechanism for goods and services in the country. KEBS provides trade facilitation services in Standards Quality Management, Metrology, Testing (SQMT), Calibration, Inspection and Certification. Within the major fields of Metrology KEBS is the custodian of the National Metrology SI Units. Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) is the Sole National Accreditation Body (NAB) mandated to offer accreditation services in Kenya. It gives formal attestation that Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are competent to carry out specific conformity assessment activities. The overall objective of the project is to enhance Kenya's Quality Infrastructure (in particular KEBS and KENAS) for facilitation of trade. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD0E280FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Regional Workshop to review the interaction between the WTO and EPA negotiations (2011)** - The overall objective of this MTS project was to improve the coordination of trade negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels and ensure that the Region gets maximum benefits from both processes. Review the interface between WTO and EPA negotiations to avoid duplication (or competition) between negotiating positions. Establish a coordination mechanism to be used in preparing regional positions, negotiations, and implementation of the outcome. The purpose was to ensure that EAC countries' harmonise and coordinate their positions through internal consultations and in the regional and multilateral negotiations to maximise potentials benefits for the EAC. [http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/acp\\_mts\\_programme/projects/9431bc5-7879968.pdf](http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/acp_mts_programme/projects/9431bc5-7879968.pdf)

**Develop a Foreign Trade Policy strategy paper in Kenya (2011)** - The overall objective of the MTS project is to develop a Foreign Trade Policy strategy paper that will be the basis of establishing a strong foreign trade department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To ensure that Kenya plays a proactive role in foreign trade relations so as to achieve its projected sustained economic growth of 10% per annum and attain the status of middle income country by 2030 as outlined in economic blue print "Kenya Vision 2030". It also looked for better understanding of Ministry officials, and other stakeholders on the implications of the multilateral trading system of the WTO to the Kenyan economy. It prepared the Ministry officials to participate effectively in the regional and multilateral trade relations. [http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/acp\\_mts\\_programme/projects/10cb408-b4e84eb.pdf](http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/acp_mts_programme/projects/10cb408-b4e84eb.pdf)

## Eastern and Southern Africa



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**Standardization and Quality Assurance for the COMESA Region (2015-2019)** - The 17 COMESA Member states that are part of ACP countries will be the beneficiary of this regional action (Libya and Egypt are excluded). The primary objective of the consultancy is to assist COMESA member States to develop a Five-Year Strategic Plan as a framework to guide and underpin activities for Quality Infrastructure, specifically covering Standards Harmonization, Industrial/Scientific Metrology and Legal Metrology, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation, Technical Regulations and Pharmaceutical Harmonization. The priority accorded to the activities are guided by the needs of foster standardisation and quality assurance in the COMESA region aiming at the promotion of health, the enhancement of the standard of living, the rationalisation and reduction of unnecessary variety of products, the facilitation of interchangeability of products, the promotion of trade, consumer protection, the creation of savings in government purchasing, improved productivity and the facilitation of information exchange. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD6E780FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Targeted support for strengthening the capacity and competitiveness of small scale horticulture farmers for the production of niche export products under the EPA in Zimbabwe (2018-2019)** - The overall objective of the TradeCom II support programme is to boost the capacity of the horticulture farmers / private sector to export, sustain the competitiveness gained and enhance access into the EU and other markets, the purpose of the support programme is three-fold: Purpose 1: To develop a stakeholder-led and “good practice” value chain compliance system for horticulture exports; Purpose 2: To improve the capacity of the beneficiaries to access value chain compliance and export requirements that enhance and sustain access to the EU and other export markets; Purpose 3: To mainstream the recognised export requirements and “good practice” both in the public and private sectors into the stakeholder-led value chain compliance system. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P040%20%20Notice%20of%20forecast%20tender%20Zimbabwe.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P040%20%20Notice%20of%20forecast%20tender%20Zimbabwe.pdf)

**Targeted Support to REPOA (Dar el Salaam, Tanzania) and Zanzibar Ministry of Trade, Industry and Marketing to Increase the Competitiveness of Primary Producers and Diversify the Export Base in light of the Trading Opportunities with the EU (2017)** – This TradeCom II project aims to foster competitiveness, export diversification and value chain processing. The purpose of the project is two-fold: Purpose 1: To identify bottlenecks that limits competitiveness and export diversification in agriculture—including value chains—and the trade policy framework to effectively address them; Purpose 2: To strengthen REPOA’s and subsequently Tanzania’s research and advisory capacity on trade policy, competitiveness and elimination of non-trade barriers in the context of enhancing the country’s trading capacity with the EU. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P006\\_REPOA\\_Zanzibar\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P006_REPOA_Zanzibar_WebEOI.pdf)

**An operational and systems audit and assessment to re-calibrate SBS in Seychelles (2015-2016)** - The Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) is the government regulatory agency founded in 1987 in terms of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards Act. The SBS is responsible for the development, maintenance and application of environmental standards in the Seychelles, with a specific focus on environmental protection. This TBT project is mainly divided into 2 sections: the first one is dedicated to the revision of the National Quality Policy framework, while the second one will directly provide capacity building and training to selected SBS staff. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD7E280FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Developing Rules of Origin for Madagascar (2013-2014)** - The International Trade Board of Madagascar (ITBM) sought the support in MTS programme to develop rules of origin for four of the country’s key agricultural exports, i.e., cocoa, cloves, lychees and pepper. ITBM is a group of Madagascan private sector intermediaries aimed at promoting the country’s exports. The project defined the legal, organisational and technical requirements required to establish rules of origin in the four enumerated agricultural products. The project resulted in the emergence of a documented roadmap with respect to the legal provisions required to be implemented in order for the country to benefit from the designation of rules of origin on the four identified products. <http://www.acp.int/content/developing-appellation-d-origine-madagascar>

**Capacity Building and the enforcement of WTO/TBT Agreement (2013-2014)** - In Zimbabwe SQAM National Quality Infrastructure is implemented through an ad-hoc Sub-Committee chaired by SAZ. Despite the existing institutional framework, the involvement of stakeholders in TBT issues is limited and there is a poor compliance with national obligations related to SADC and COMESA agreements. In addition there is a lack in the country of accredited organizations for proficiency testing of water and foods. In the light of this, the project aims at developing the existing capacity of the National Quality Infrastructure (SAZ, National Laboratory Association of Zimbabwe, ZINQAP, etc.) and strengthen compliance with WTO/TBT requirements. In order to develop the capacity of officials to implement the WTO TBT agreement, improve the functioning of the National TBT Committee and Sub-Committees and to support the accreditation process of key proficiency testing facilities, (e.g., the laboratory of food contaminants, and the water and food microbiology laboratory), the project activities include: a gap analysis on the capacity of National trade-related structures, a raising awareness campaign on WTO TBT as well as a series of specific training sessions aiming at supporting the laboratory of food contaminants and the laboratory of water and food microbiology in their process towards ISO/IEC 17025

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## South African Development Community

**Dialogue Facility (2018-...)** - One of the dialogue projects approved under the last call presented by DTI/SARS is "EU-SADC EPA rules of origin within SADC EPA framework", approximately EUR 40,000 to engage in meaningful dialogue about protocol 1 of the agreement on rules origin together with capacity building. The facility (EUR 5 million) as a whole aims to identify best practices in different thematic areas and engage at technical level of regional and economic integration with experts to strengthen the implementation of existing strategies and policies. <http://www.dialoguefacility.org/about.html>

**Programme to support EPA implementation (2018-...)** – This programme (EUR 10 million) started in 2018 and addresses issues such as: (i) support to productive sectors and supply chains relevant to EPA, (ii) support to building capacity and quality infrastructure with regard to SPS and TBT matters, which is key for SA to reap benefits from the tariff liberalisation provided to their products, (iii) support to improving legislation/regulatory environment to enhance the business climate, including fiscal and customs reforms, best practices exchanges, etc, (iv) support to establish monitoring mechanisms and indicators, and to enhance participation of stakeholders in the monitoring of the impact the EPA has on sustainable development.

**SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF) (2014-2019)** - It is a programme of EUR 31.6 million strengthens implementation of existing regional trade agreements at the national level. Through the programme the SADC region will receive financial support to launch projects that support regional integration, trade and economic development. All national level projects are aligned to either the SADC Trade Protocol and/or the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/46875/trade-related-facility-trf-southern-africa-development-community-sadc\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/46875/trade-related-facility-trf-southern-africa-development-community-sadc_en)

**EPA outreach programme (2016-2018)** - To increase positive impact through participation and awareness in the SADC EPA implementation process (EUR 350,000). The specific aim is to contribute to the effective implementation of the SADC EPA in South Africa through technical assistance, capacity building and information initiatives aimed at a wide range of economic, political and social actors. One aspect is the EU SADC EPA Outreach website (<https://sadc-epa-outreach.com/about>).

**SADC Trade Facilitation Programme** - The SADC "Trade Facilitation Programme" is expected to reduce the cost of intraregional trade by enhancing the efficiency of border posts, triggering a positive impact into intra-regional trade and job creation and thereby enhancing prosperity (EUR 15 million).

**Cooperation for the Enhancement of SADC Regional Economic Integration (CESARE) (2015-2017)** - The inclusion of the private sector in strategic and thematic discussions of various aspects of integration ensures that the resulting discussions respond to their needs and lead to more trade across the borders. The CESARE Programme was developed by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supports the SADC Secretariat and other SADC Structures in their efforts of monitoring, reporting and evaluating the status of implementation of the SADC Protocols on Trade as well as on Finance and Investment. The negotiations on the Trade in Services Protocol are aided by providing technical advice and preparing trade negotiation fora. One such key factor of economic development is the development of regional infrastructure. Public private dialogues are used to consult the private sector on the viability of project ideas early on in the project cycle.

**Targeted assistance for EPA implementation through SPS conformity for fisheries and aquaculture, and enhanced export capacity of fisheries in Mozambique (2018-2019)** - To contribute to improving the macroeconomic performance of Mozambique through effective integration in its regional and international export markets for sustainable development and poverty reduction this projects aims to improve/facilitate the expansion and diversification of Mozambique's fish and aquaculture production and export potential, in particular in context of EPAs to develop the national standardisation strategy for the fisheries sector; to support the implementation of the SADC-EU EPA in Mozambique with regard to the Fisheries sector. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P044-Mozambique\\_webEOI%20forecast%20Notice.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P044-Mozambique_webEOI%20forecast%20Notice.pdf)

**Implementation of the NSI Strategic objectives in Namibia (2015-2016)** - The Namibian Standards Institution is Namibia's National Standards Body (NSB) responsible for coordinating all standardisation and quality assurance activities in the country and represents Namibia at regional and international standardisation bodies. The NSI mission is to enhance product quality, industrial efficiency and productivity in Namibia. The purpose of this TBT project is strengthening the existing capacities of the NSI in terms of standardisation, inspection, management systems and technical assistance to SME in line with the upgraded National Quality Policy



(NQP). [http://www.acp-eu-](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD5E280FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

[tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD5E280FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD5E280FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

**Build the capacity of Botswana Quality Assurance Institutions (2014-2015)** - The Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) was established in 1995 and became operational in April 1997. BOBS facilitates the development of Botswana Standards, provides and makes arrangement for testing of products and calibration of measuring instruments, provides and recognises inspection agencies for purpose of monitoring compliance to technical regulations and certification of complying products and management systems. The activities are implemented with a view to improving product quality, industrial efficiency and productivity, and the promotion of trade, so as to achieve optimum benefits for the public generally, particularly in the interests of health, safety and welfare and protection of the consumer. BOBS offers technical services in the areas of standardization, testing of goods, certification of products and management systems, industrial & trade metrology, information and training. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the Quality Infrastructure institutions in Botswana and support economic operators/exporters to comply with WTO/TBT requirements.

[http://www.acp-eu-](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66F4D08CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD)

[tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66F4D08CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66F4D08CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD)

## Caribbean

**Consultancy Services to Develop a Regional Single Administrative Document (SAD) and Capacity Building on Customs Valuations for CARICOM Member States and CARIFORUM Countries (2017)** – this TradeCom II project has two specific objectives: (i) Prepare and present to CARICOM Secretariat and the CARIFORUM Directorate a Regional SAD for CARICOM and subsequently for CARIFORUM as per Chapter 4 of Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in accordance with the WCO Data Model Version 3. (ii) Support the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and CARIFORUM States through capacity building on customs valuations and administrations in the application of the principles and procedures of the SAD

[http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P008\\_CARICOM\\_SAD\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P008_CARICOM_SAD_WebEOI.pdf)

**Targeted Support to Enhance the Implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA (2017)** – Developed within the TradeCom II support programme this project aims to enhance the capacity of the EPA Implementation Unit of the CARIFORUM Directorate, and by extension CARIFORUM States, with respect to the implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA. Specifically, the project will: (i) Foster an enabling environment for economic growth through the enhancement of the legal and regulatory framework of CARIFORUM States (ii) Strengthen capacity in the EPA Implementation Unit to monitor the effective implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P001-CARIFORUM\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P001-CARIFORUM_WebEOI.pdf)

**Support to CARIFORUM States with their submission of required data to the WTO Trade Policy Review Division as it relates to the CRTA consideration** - This activity entailed preparing the trade and tariff data required for the consideration of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA by the WTO. With the establishment of the WTO Transparency Mechanism for regional trade agreements (RTAs), it is now a requirement that all Members of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) submit the required data to the WTO's RTA Division.

**Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)-centred Capacity-building Project (2014-2017)** - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat-based Caribbean Forum of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (CARIFORUM) Directorate, in collaboration with key partners, launched a EUR 3 million EU funded project in 2014 for 3 years. The Project's specific objective is to contribute to the effective implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, with particular reference to obligations relating to Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation. The specific objective is to contribute to the effective implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement with particular reference to obligations relating to Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation. <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/cariforum-cbp>

**Enhancing Market Access for Quality Origin Products through their protection of geographical indications in Guyana (2016-2017)** - Guyana generates a large share of its economic activity from agriculture and natural resources sectors. Guyana's main agricultural products are sugar and rice. Guyana also produces a wide variety of "non-traditional" agricultural products (e.g. fruits and vegetables), but also traditional quality products with renowned reputations. All those products have potential to become protected Geographical Indications. Geographical Indications are names associated with quality products coming from specific places when the geographical origin of the products gives them specific qualities, characteristics and reputation. However there is a follow-up difficulty in supporting the producers of traditional quality products in identifying and taking the necessary steps to obtain protection by any means of the identification and registration of their GIs. The overall objective of the project is to promote sustainable development in Guyana and thus in the Caribbean and to contribute to poverty eradication in the ACP through reinforcing and promoting local quality products and the smooth and gradual integration of these products into the regional and

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global economy. [http://www.acp-eu-](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDDFE380FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

[tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDDFE380FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDDFE380FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

**Training in Writing Technical Regulations and Methods of Referencing of Standards (2016-2017)** - This project is the result of a joint request from the Bureaux of Standards of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago. The purpose of this project is to strengthen the capacities of the Bureaux of Standards in development and harmonisation of technical regulations and methods of referencing standards. Project structure will be articulated on the basis of the following activities: Preparatory Mission in each country involved; training on procedures for the development and implementation of technical regulations in each country; remote support to draft at least one technical regulation for each country; follow-up mission and monitoring of internal procedure and a regional Workshop. The overall objective of the project is to promote Good Regulatory Practice in developing and implementing Technical Regulations for a more effective application of the WTO TBT Agreement. [http://www.acp-eu-](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDDFE780FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

[tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDDFE780FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDDFE780FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

**CABA Caribbean AgriBusiness Association- Promotion of the Agro-Tourism sector in the Caribbean Region (2014-2017)** -

There is a need to strengthen tourism-agriculture linkages and develop a strong local and regional market for agricultural products serving the tourism sector. The project beneficiary is the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA). The project will promote the adoption of certification schemes by regional designated producers and suppliers in the agro-food sector; with the objective of enhancing their exporting opportunities and possibly matching the demand of selected regional chains of Hotels and Restaurants. In order to ensure long term results and sustainability, all activities will be implemented and carried out in tight collaboration with CABA whose capacities to promote the matching of demand and supply in the field of agro-tourism will be strengthened. [http://www.acp-](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD0EA80FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

[tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD0EA80FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD0EA80FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

**CROSQ & AFRIMETS - E-learning training course on Legal Metrology (2015-2016)** - This project is the result of joint efforts of the ACP-EU TBT Programme with PTB, OIML, BIPM and UNIDO in the field of metrology and responds to the demand of several ACP countries that have requested support, training and capacity building aiming at developing local knowledge on metrology. In order to ensure a full appropriation of ACP member states, two regional organisations were selected as specific project counterparts and beneficiaries: CARICOM - Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and AFRIMETS for African ACP countries. The overall objective of the project is to enhance ACP countries knowledge on metrology as an essential element of Quality Infrastructure in order to facilitate trade, protect consumers and promote fair competition for transformative growth and as an important driver for economic development, industrialization and poverty reduction. [http://www.acp-eu-](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD2E580FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

[tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD2E580FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD2E580FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD)

**Strengthening quality and Food Safety Management System in Dominican Republic (2014-2015)** - The ACP-EU TBT and the COLEACP – PIP programmes have agreed to consistently assess and promote synergies and collaboration opportunities in the implementation of their respective activities. This project is the first occasion to put into practice this collaboration. The direct project beneficiary and the interlocutor for the organization and the set up of all project activities is CEI-RD. Capacity building and training actions in the fields of food safety and export promotion for pineapple products are conducted in collaboration with the Pineapple Producer Association Cevicos Inc. (APROPIC) of the Dominican Republic. The project purpose is to Build capacities of CEI-RD, APROPIC and of other relevant intermediary Organisations and consultants in the fields of food safety and export promotion for pineapple products (traceability, access to markets, food quality and food safety, etc.). Project activities include: Needs assessment of pineapple producers, exporters, associations and trade-related institutions. Training of trainers on TBT and export promotion issues Training of trainers on Food Safety Management system Pedagogical training Selection of companies willing to attain certification Coaching of trainees and Support to companies willing to attain certification The overall project approach takes advantage of the long term experience acquired by COLEACP in this field and in Dominican Republic in particular. [http://www.acp-](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FBDF8CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD)

[tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FBDF8CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD](http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FBDF8CEFE5E38DFD6216CDEFE806FAF8CD)

**Enhancing the negotiating capacity of the international trade professionals in Trinidad & Tobago (2011)** - The overall objective of the project is to provide Technical Assistance to enhance the negotiating Capacity of the International Trade Professionals (ITPs) in Trinidad & Tobago. To enhance the Ministry of Trade and Industry's capacity to undertake trade negotiations at the regional and multilateral levels, and to implement WTO and other trade agreements; and formulate complementary policies that will enable Trinidad & Tobago to reap the benefits of freer global trade.

[http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/acp\\_mts\\_programme/projects/5180d56-9becf8b.pdf](http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/acp_mts_programme/projects/5180d56-9becf8b.pdf)

## Pacific

**Targeted Support to the authorities of Samoa and Solomon Islands in the accession and preparation for the implementation of the EPA with the EU (2017)** – This TradeCom II project aims to enhance the capacity of the Samoan and

Solomon Islands' authorities with respect to the accession to the Pacific-EU EPA and, subsequently its implementation. Purpose 1: Support the Samoan and Solomon Islands' authorities prepare for the successful accession to the EPA; Purpose 2: Assist the Samoan and Solomon Islands' authorities to prepare for the effective implementation of the EPA. [http://95.110.167.47/intra\\_tradecom/doc/P025\\_Samoa&Solomon%20Islands\\_WebEOI.pdf](http://95.110.167.47/intra_tradecom/doc/P025_Samoa&Solomon%20Islands_WebEOI.pdf)

**Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat ANDNIUE Support to PIFS to build capacity for Mainstreaming Trade Policy Frameworks (TPFs) and overall Trade Agenda in the Pacific Region, and to Niue for the Implementation of its TPF Programme (2017) -**

The project was designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Government of Niue to support the PIFs trade mainstreaming agenda for the Pacific ACP states (PACP) through the effective use of the National Trade Policy Framework (NTPFs), using the case of the Government of Niue as a "good practice" for the PACPS in their implementation of respective NTPFs. Over the past years the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat-Hubs and Spokes Programme has supported PACPS to formulate National Trade Policy Frameworks (NTPFs). These documents evaluate internal and external constraints on a country's integration into the world economy, and recommend actions suitable to address those constraints. As such, TPFs provide support to coordinate PACPS' efforts to increase trade; guide donors in designing their "Aid-for-Trade" (Aft) interventions, and helps PIC governments to mainstream Aft into national development frameworks. <http://www.trade-com-acpeu.org/imcustom/Programme%20Arch%20Files/PIFS%20and%20NIUE/EAC%20-%20NL%204%20Programme%20Highlights.pdf>

**PIPSO - Enhance trade capacities of Pacific Agribusiness and improve access to international markets (2015-2016) -** To reduce dependence on large imports and increase revenue, the private sector is encouraged to produce more local products and export to New Zealand and Australia, the closest international markets. The project will contribute to improve the capacities of selected agribusiness in the Pacific region to overcome barriers to trade in regional and international markets and take advantage of existing exporting opportunities. The project will be implemented by a combination of training for trainers, coaching, mentoring and consultancy. In the first stages of the project, selected trainees will be trained on certification for agro-food products. PIPSO in collaboration with the project team will then select a list of motivated companies that will go through a series of training and consulting. The phase of SMEs selection is crucial. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD0E680FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Scientific and Legal assistance for Kava production (2015) -** The TBT project will cover all kava-producing Pacific countries and more particularly Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. The direct beneficiaries will be kava farmers, kava traders, kava processors and key Government officials dealing with trade policy. Kava is a key and almost symbolic agricultural product in the Pacific. There is a lack of a recognised and harmonised regional/international standard and its related technical regulatory requirements to benchmark quality. The overall objective of the project is to enhance the participation of kava-producing Pacific countries in international trade and address current technical barriers to trade to improve exports. The aim of the project is to undertake a thorough scientific analysis of kava cultivars and on the basis of such scientific knowledge to define an appropriate technical regulation framework for the safe commercial exploitation of kava and kava-related products. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD6EB80FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

**Eco-labelling schemes in enhancing Market Access for Pacific Fish Products in the EU (2014) -** The project aims at assessing the real potentialities of the adoption of eco-labelling schemes in the fish sector in the Pacific region and thus provide advice and support to governmental and private sector institutions. The Proposal would also help build the capacities of government and industry groups on aspects of the WTO TBT Agreement which addresses eco-labelling schemes, and how Pacific governments can reform existing policy, regulations and institutional framework to support the development and use of eco-labels. Project contributes to the enabling conditions for harnessing sustainable trade opportunities in the region; awareness raising among producers, key stakeholders and targeted groups in the Pacific Region on the role/importance of eco-labelling schemes in the aquaculture and fishery sector. <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojects.cfm?id=279CC3E89126DCC6C78B90A8D1ED66FDD7E380FBF584FA6D1FCEE8E906FEFEC8DD>

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